In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-16 as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method for retrieving data from a database according to retrieval conditions set forth in an issued SQL sentence, database retrieving method, comprising:

making a comparison between a cost required when retrieval is performed after an index corresponding to a retrieval condition is generated and a cost required when entire retrieval is performed without an index;

generating an index corresponding to the retrieval condition if the cost required when the entire retrieval is performed without an index is higher as a result of the cost comparison; and

retrieving a the data from the database by using the generated index.

2.   (Currently Amended)   A database retrieving method for retrieving data from a database according to retrieval conditions set forth in an issued SQL sentence, comprising:

making a comparison between a cost required when retrieval is performed after an index corresponding to a retrieval condition is generated and a cost required when entire retrieval is performed without an index;

determining whether or not a first index which satisfies a condition wider than the retrieval condition exists among already generated indexes, if the cost required

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when the ~~entire~~ retrieval is performed <u>without an index</u> is higher as a result of the cost comparison;

generating a second index which satisfies only the retrieval condition by using the first index, if the first index which satisfies the wider condition exists; and

retrieving ~~a~~ <u>the data from the</u> database by using the generated second index.

3.   (Currently Amended)   A ~~database retrieving~~ method <u>for retrieving data from a database according to retrieval conditions set forth in an issued SQL sentence,</u> comprising:

making a comparison between a cost required when retrieval is performed after an index corresponding to a retrieval condition is generated and a cost required when ~~entire~~ retrieval is performed <u>without an index</u>;

determining whether or not two or more indexes which satisfy the retrieval condition by being combined exist among a plurality of already generated indexes, if the cost required when the ~~entire~~ retrieval is performed <u>without an index</u> is higher as a result of the cost comparison;

generating an index corresponding to the retrieval condition by combining the two or more indexes, if the two or more indexes exist; and

retrieving ~~a~~ <u>the data from the</u> database by using the generated index.

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4. (Currently Amended) The ~~database retrieving~~ method according to claim 1, further comprising:

managing data of the number of accesses, a generation date and time, and an update frequency of the generated index; and

deleting the generated index according to management status of the data.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~database retrieving~~ method according to claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether or not an already generated index that is applicable to an access process exists, if an access to the database is a data update or deletion;

determining whether or not access performance of the access process is degraded due to existence of the index, if the index exists; and

deleting the index prior to start of the access process, if the access performance is degraded.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~database retrieving~~ method according to claim 2, further comprising:

managing data of the number of accesses, a generation date and time, and an update frequency of the generated index; and

deleting the generated index according to management status of the data.

7.   (Currently Amended)   The ~~database retrieving~~ method according to

claim 2, further comprising:

determining whether or not an already generated index that is applicable

to an access process exists, if an access to the database is a ~~date~~<u>data</u> update or deletion;

determining whether or not access performance of the access process is

degraded due to existence of the index, if the index exists; and

deleting the index prior to start of the access process, if the access

performance is degraded.

8.   (Currently Amended)   The ~~database retrieving~~ method according to

claim 3, further comprising:

managing data of the number of accesses, a generation date and time,

and an update frequency of the generated index; and

deleting the generated index according to management status of the data.

9.   (Currently Amended)   The ~~database retrieving~~ method according to

claim 3, further comprising:

determining whether or not an already generated index that is applicable

to an access process exists, if an access to the database is a data update or deletion;

determining whether or not access performance of the access process is

degraded due to existence of the index, if the index exists; and

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deleting the index prior to start of the access process, if the access performance is degraded.

10.   (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a <u>data retrieval</u> process <u>from a database according to retrieval conditions set forth in an issued SQL sentence,</u> when <u>the data retrieving process is</u> being used by the computer, said process comprising:

making a comparison between a cost required when retrieval is performed after an index corresponding to a retrieval condition is generated and a cost required when ~~entire~~-retrieval is performed <u>without an index</u>;

generating an index corresponding to the retrieval condition if the cost required when the ~~entire~~-retrieval is performed <u>without an index</u> is higher as a result of the cost comparison; and

retrieving ~~a~~<u>the data from the</u> database by using the generated index.

11.   (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a <u>data retrieving</u> process <u>from a database according to retrieval conditions set forth in an issued SQL sentence,</u> when <u>the data retrieving process is</u> being used by the computer, said process comprising:

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making a comparison between a cost required when retrieval is performed after an index corresponding to a retrieval condition is generated and a cost required when ~~entire~~-retrieval is performed without an index;

determining whether or not a first index which satisfies a condition wider than the retrieval condition exists among already generated indexes, if the cost required when the ~~entire~~-retrieval is performed without an index is higher as a result of the cost comparison;

generating a second index which satisfies only the retrieval condition by using the first index, if the first index which satisfies the wider condition exists; and

retrieving ~~a~~the data from the database by using the generated second index.

12.   (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a data retrieval process from a database according to retrieval conditions set forth in an issued SQL sentence when the data retrieving process is being used by the computer, said process comprising:

making a comparison between a cost required when retrieval is performed after an index corresponding to a retrieval condition is generated and a cost required when ~~entire~~ retrieval is performed without an index;

determining whether or not two or more indexes which satisfy the retrieval condition by being combined exist among a plurality of already generated indexes, if

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the cost required when the ~~entire~~ retrieval is performed <u>without an index</u> is higher as a result of the cost comparison;

generating an index corresponding to the retrieval condition by combining the two or more indexes, if the two or more indexes exist; and

retrieving <u>a</u><u>the data from the</u> database by using the generated index.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A database retrieving apparatus~~<u>Apparatus</u> <u>fro retrieving data from a database according to retrieval conditions set forth in an issued SQL sentence</u>, comprising:

an access process optimizing unit making a comparison between a cost required when retrieval is performed after an index corresponding to a retrieval condition is generated and a cost required when ~~entire~~ retrieval is performed <u>without an index</u>;

a dynamic index generating unit generating an index corresponding to the retrieval condition if the cost required when the ~~entire~~ retrieval is performed <u>without an index</u> is higher as a result of the cost comparison; and

an access processing unit retrieving <u>a</u><u>the data from the</u> database by using the generated index.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A database retrieving apparatus,~~<u>Apparatus</u> <u>for retrieving data from a database according to retrieval conditions set forth in an issued SQL sentence,</u> comprising:

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an access process optimizing unit making a comparison between a cost required when retrieval is performed after an index corresponding to a retrieval condition is generated and a cost required when ~~entire~~ retrieval is performed <u>without an index</u>;

an index managing unit determining whether or not a first index which satisfies a condition wider than the retrieval condition exists among already generated indexes, if the cost required when the ~~entire~~ retrieval is performed <u>without an index</u> is higher as a result of the cost comparison;

a dynamic index generating unit generating a second index which satisfies only the retrieval condition by using the first index, if the first index which satisfies the wider condition exists; and

an access processing unit retrieving a<u>the data from the</u> database by using the generated second index.

15.   (Currently Amended)   ~~A database retrieving apparatus,~~<u>Apparatus for retrieving data from a database according to retrieval conditions set forth in an issued SQL sentence,</u> comprising:

an access process optimizing unit making a comparison between a cost required when retrieval is performed after an index corresponding to a retrieval condition is generated and a cost required when ~~entire~~ retrieval is performed <u>without an index</u>;

an index managing unit determining whether or not two or more indexes which satisfy the retrieval condition by being combined exist among a plurality of already

generated indexes, if the cost required when the ~~entire~~ retrieval is performed <u>without an</u> <u>index</u> is higher as a result of the cost comparison;

a dynamic index generating unit generating an index corresponding to the retrieval condition by combining the two or more indexes, if the two or more indexes exist; and

an access processing unit retrieving ~~a~~<u>the data from the</u> database by using the generated index.

16.   (Currently Amended)   ~~A database retrieving apparatus,~~<u>Apparatus</u> <u>for retrieving data from a database according to retrieval conditions set forth in an issued</u> <u>SQL sentence,</u> comprising:

access process optimizing means for making a comparison between a cost required when retrieval is performed after an index corresponding to a retrieval condition is generated and a cost required when ~~entire~~ retrieval is performed<u>without an</u> <u>index</u>;

dynamic index generating means for generating an index corresponding to the retrieval condition if the cost required when the ~~entire~~ retrieval is performed <u>without an</u> <u>index</u> is higher as a result of the cost comparison; and

access processing means for retrieving ~~a~~<u>the data from the</u> database by using the generated index.

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